

continued his work as a performer both on the bandstand and on television & radio as well. He hosted his own jazz piano show for Bravo, "Jazz Counterpoint," which featured such artists as George Shearing, Marian McPartland and Ramsey Lewis, along with two different NPR radio series, "Dizzy's Diamond," and "Taylor Made Piano," which featured the history of jazz using the piano to tell the story. Based upon Dr. Taylor's book, "Jazz Piano," "Taylor Made Piano" won a Peabody Award and generated more requests for tapes than any previous NPR program. As the 80's drew to a close, Billy Taylor signed with GRP/Impulse, making some of his most popular recordings, including the re-release of *My Fair Lady Loves Jazz* (arranged by Quincy Jones), *It's A Matter of Pride*, Dr. T (featuring Gerry Mulligan) and *Homage* (featuring the Turtle Island String Quartet) which received a Grammy nomination in 1996.

During the 90's Dr. Taylor was named Artistic Advisor for Jazz to the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Since 1994, under the umbrella of Jazz at the Kennedy Center, Taylor has developed one acclaimed concert series after another including the Art Tatum Pianorama, the Louis Armstrong Legacy series, the annual Mary Lou Williams Women in Jazz Festival, *Beyond Category*, Betty Carter's *Jazz Ahead* and the *Jazz Ambassadors Program*. His nationally broadcast NPR series, "Billy Taylor's Jazz at the Kennedy Center" is recorded live and features a mix of performances, audience Q & A, and conversations with musical guests. (see the Education/Residencies section of this website). Billy pioneered this play a little, talk a little format in the early 80's, with his "Jazz Models & Mentors" series, presented four times a year at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. Taylor performs regularly with his current trio (Chip Jackson/bass & Winard Harper/drums) as well as with his long time friend, pianist Ramsey Lewis. When he's not touring, composing or recording, he can be found in classrooms throughout the country, conducting master classes, workshops and lecture/demonstrations. As he approaches his 80th birthday, Billy Taylor remains vigorously dedicated to nurturing jazz and creating new forums and opportunities for the artists who perform it. He encompasses that rare combination of creativity, intelligence, vision, commitment and leadership, all qualities that make him one of our most cherished national treasures."

In March 2005, Dr. Taylor retired from concert performance.

#### A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING ROB VERNON

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas Rob Vernon has been a dedicated president of the Muskingum County Farm Bureau worthy of merit and recognition; and

Whereas, Rob Vernon should be rewarded for his passion and commitment toward farming; and

Whereas, Rob Vernon should be commended for the excellence and devotion with which he served the county of Muskingum.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Rob Vernon for his outstanding accomplishments.

#### RELIGIOUS LEADERS SPEAK OUT ON BUDGET

**HON. TOM PRICE**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2005*

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, our national budget and spending bills reflect our government's values and priorities, and in recent years those priorities have been skewed heavily in favor of helping the rich and eroding protections for the poor. Our country's religious leaders recognize that danger, and for the second time this year have issued statements calling on our government to truly care for the least among us and to abide by a budget and spending plan that reflects the higher values and morals of our country. I would like to submit for the RECORD a letter from the leaders of many of the major Protestant churches in our country and another by the National Council of Jewish women calling on Congress not to abandon the poor in the aftermath of Katrina. The budget reconciliation process should not be used to further reduce funding for education, food stamps, health care, and other critical domestic priorities while spending twice that amount in tax cuts for the wealthiest among us.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, USA,  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
IN AMERICAN, PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH (U.S.A.), UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST, UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2005.

DEAR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: As leaders of our respective denominations, we have long sought an end to the injustices inherent in poverty. We have never seen these injustices born out so vividly in our own country as in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The devastation wrought by Katrina has exposed the anguished faces of the poor in the wealthiest nation on the planet. These faces, precious in the eyes of God, cause us to remember that racial disparities and poverty exist in almost every community in our nation. They also compel us to set before Congress once again our concerns for the FY '06 federal budget and its impact on people living in poverty. With renewed urgency, we call on Congress to stop the FY '06 federal budget reconciliation process immediately.

We believe our federal budget is a concrete expression of our shared moral values and priorities. Congress rightly and quickly responded in appropriating needed funds to ensure an adequate initial response to Hurricane Katrina. Our denominations have mobilized and are responding in prayer and financial support and direct service to those in need. Yet, just as disaster struck the Gulf Coast, the U.S. Census Bureau reported in very particular detail that poverty in the United States is growing. The annual report, *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2004* showed that 37.0 million people lived in poverty in 2004, an increase of more than one million people since 2003.

In April, during consideration of the budget resolution we wrote to Congress that, "As we view the FY '06 Federal Budget through our lens of faith this budget, on balance, con-

tinues to ask our nation's working poor to pay the cost of a prosperity in which they may never share." It is clear that programs such as Medicaid and the Food Stamp Program that were slated for cuts by Congress will in fact have greater burdens placed on them as a result of Hurricane Katrina. These programs are not simply entitlements or "government hand-outs," they represent the deep and abiding commitment of a nation to care for the least among us.

Believe us when we tell you that even before Hurricane Katrina or the Census Bureau's report, neither we nor our friends of other faiths had the resources to turn back the rising tide of poverty in this country. The FY '06 reconciliation bill that is working its way through the authorizing committees will send more people searching for food in cupboards that, quite frequently, are bare.

We commit ourselves to working for economic policies infused with the spirit of the One who began his public ministry almost 2,000 years ago by proclaiming that God had anointed him "to bring good news to the poor."

The Most Reverend FRANK  
T. GRISWOLD,

*Presiding Bishop and  
Primate of the Epis-  
copal Church, USA.*

The Right Reverend MARK  
HANSON,

*Presiding Bishop of  
the Evangelical Lu-  
theran Church in  
America.*

The Reverend Dr. CLIFTON  
KIRKPATRICK,

*Stated Clerk of the  
General Assembly,  
Presbyterian Church  
(U.S.A.).*

The Reverend JOHN H.  
THOMAS,

*General Minister and  
President, United  
Church of Christ.*

JAMES WINKLER,  
General Secretary,  
General Board of  
Church and Soci-  
ety, United Meth-  
odist Church.

#### NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN URGES NEW NATIONAL PRIORITIES IN KATRINA'S WAKE

NEW YORK, SEPT. 12, 2005.—In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) President Phyllis Snyder issued the following statement:

We have watched with alarm the tragedy that continues to unfold in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast as a result of Katrina. Our hearts go out to all of the people who have suffered from this disastrous hurricane—those who have lost loved ones, homes, livelihoods, and their communities.

We applaud the efforts of the individuals who have worked day and night to rescue and provide relief to those victimized by Katrina. So, too, we salute the countless volunteers, many of whom are from NCJW, working to assist evacuees who have relocated to their communities.

This is a tragedy compounded by the grave mistakes made by the very people and institutions charged with keeping us safe. We urge the establishment of an independent commission of inquiry with adequate budget authority and subpoena power to investigate this catastrophe. It is important that this effort rise above partisan politics in order to determine exactly what went wrong and to make recommendations for the future.

Recovering from Katrina will necessitate measures that go well beyond the immediate